

transmitted weight. The *Black* reference illustrates engagement of weight-bearing members and surfaces that form metal-to-metal engagement.

Similarly, the weight-bearing components of the *Frear et al.* assembly are all metal. It is respectfully submitted that such a system does not include resiliently deformable means for transferring a major portion of the weight.

The *Bodine* reference also lacks a resiliently deformable means for transferring a major portion of the transmitted weight.

As presently amended, it is respectfully submitted that the claims remaining in the application are clearly distinguishable over the cited art of record or any appropriate combination of such art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for an indication of allowability, and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

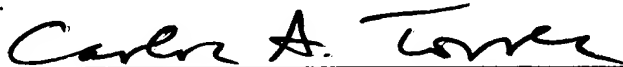


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all referenced enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on December 7, 1999.



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